

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Currently Amended). An isolated nucleic acid encoding a protein which is functionally identical to a protein that occurs naturally in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when keratinocytes are in an activated state as compared to non-activated keratinocytes,

wherein said ~~protein~~ nucleic acid has a nucleotide sequence of indicated in either the SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~sequence protocol~~ or the SEQ ID NO: 4, ~~sequence protocol~~;

~~or a nucleotide sequence complementary to one~~ the antisense strand of SEQ ID NO: 1, ~~or the antisense strand of~~ SEQ ID NO: 4,

or[[,]] wherein one or more uridine (U) nucleic acids are substituted for thymidine (T) nucleic acid bases in SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4[[,]] .

3. (Currently Amended). The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 2 wherein the nucleic acid is obtained from a natural, synthetic or ~~half~~ semi-synthetic source.

Claims 4-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently amended). A recombinant DNA vector molecule, which encompasses a nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein said DNA vector molecule ~~expressing~~ expresses protein pKe#122, in a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell.

9. (Previously presented). The recombinant DNA vector molecule according to claim 8, wherein the vector molecule is the plasmid pUEX-1 or pGEX-2T or pBK-CMV or pHR2.

10. (Currently Amended). An isolated transformed host cell containing a nucleic acid according to claim 2, which is coupled with an activatable promoter contained in the host cell naturally or as the consequence of a recombination, and which has the ability to express a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when the keratinocytes are in an activated state, ~~in particular protein pKe#122.~~

Claims 11-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended). A reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes, said protein being increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes as compared to non-activated keratinocytes, ~~in particular protein pKe#122,~~ wherein the reagent encompasses at least one nucleic acid according to claim 2.

Claims 18-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently amended). A reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes, said protein being increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes as compared to non-activated keratinocytes, ~~in particular protein pKe#122,~~ wherein the reagent encompasses at least one nucleic acid, ~~wherein the nucleic acid is a splice variant,~~ which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence of indicated in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO: 1, or in sequence protocol SEQ ID NO: 4, the antisense strand of SEQ ID NO: 1, or the antisense strand of SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claims 25-28. (Cancelled).

- 29. (New) The isolated transformed host cell containing a nucleic acid according to claim 10, wherein said protein is pKe#122.
- 30. (New) The reagent according to claim 17, wherein said protein is pKe#122.
- 31. (New) The reagent according to claim 24, wherein said protein is pKe#122.